

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the rotatable runner plate has a spherical cap configuration having a convex spherical cap face in punctiform contact with the bearing face of the rack.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the axial roller bearing is a ball bearing.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the axial roller bearing is a needle bearing.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 4, wherein that runner plate of the ball bearing which is fixed in terms of rotation in the pressure piece is configured as a sleeve having an edge which engages around the runner plate of spherical cap configuration.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the axial roller bearing is configured as an axial angular contact needle bearing including bearing needles, and a cage guided at the needles for the needles bearing.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the rotatable runner plate of the ball bearing has a mushroom-shaped configuration including a stem and a convex spherical cap face, a sleeve accommodating the stem and
a needle ring which surrounds the stem.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, further comprising a retaining element connecting the runner plates of the axial roller bearing to one another.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the pressure piece has a blind hole; and the axial roller bearing is inserted into the blind hole of the pressure piece.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the pressure piece has a through hole; and the axial roller bearing is pressed into the through hole in the pressure piece.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim [[1]] 15, wherein the parts of the axial roller bearings are manufactured at least partially by a chipless shaping operation.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended)

A rack and pinion steering system for a motor vehicle, comprising
a pinion having an axis and having a first contact surface around the axis,
a rack having a longitudinal direction across the axis of the pinion and the rack being mounted to be displaceable along the longitudinal direction thereof;
the rack having a second contact surface that engages the first contact surface, the rack having a prismatic form including two bearing faces which are inclined at an angle to the

engagement of the first and second contact surfaces and being symmetrical with respect to the first contact surface along the axis;

the rack having a third side opposite the second contact surface~~[[;]], and~~ bearing faces on the third side of the rack;

a pressure piece arranged on the third side of the rack, the pressure piece ~~having a back pressure face which slides~~ sliding on the bearing faces which are on the third side of the rack, the pressure piece being prestressed in the axial direction against the rack; the pressure piece having two of the bearing faces which lie generally opposed to one another and are inclined with respect to one another;

at least one axial sliding bearing, at each bearing face, the axial sliding bearing comprising two runner plates accommodated in the bearing faces of the pressure piece which bearing faces lie opposed to one another, one of the runner plates of the axial sliding bearing being held in the pressure piece so as to rotate with it, and the other rotatable runner plate of the axial sliding bearing extending inclined at a defined angle α with respect to the bearing face of the rack, to define a point of contact between the bearing face of the rack and the rotatable runner plate.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the runner plate has a mushroom-shaped configuration including a stem and a convex spherical cap face, the runner plate which is fixed in terms of rotation is configured as a sleeve, the sleeve has a base provided with an axially oriented projection, and the axially oriented projection being in contact with the base of the stem.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended)

A rack and pinion steering system for a motor vehicle, comprising a pinion having an axis and having a first contact surface around the axis

a rack having a longitudinal direction across the axis of the pinion and the rack being mounted to be displaceable along the longitudinal direction thereof; the rack having a second contact surface that engages the first contact surface, the rack having a back side which lies

opposite the second contact surface thereof, the ~~second contact surface~~ back side having an arcuate form,

a pressure piece arranged on the back side of the rack which lies opposite the second contact surface thereof, the pressure piece has a back pressure face which rolls without sliding on the rack, the pressure piece being prestressed in an axial direction thereof and against the rack;

the pressure piece having two bearing faces which lie generally opposed to one another and are inclined with respect to one another;

for each bearing face, an axial roller bearing comprising two spaced apart runner plates and a rolling body set situated between the runner plates and arranged in the respective bearing faces, one runner plate of the axial roller bearing being held in the pressure piece so as to rotate with the pressure piece, and the other ~~rotatable~~ runner plate of the axial roller bearing is shaped and oriented to have a point contact with the rack.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the rack has a longitudinal recess which is adapted to the profile of the ~~rotatable~~ runner plate.

Claims 17-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first and second contact surfaces are toothed and the toothing thereof are in mesh.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the stem has a circumferential surface; and bearing needles arranged between the circumferential surface of the stem and the sleeve.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first and second contact surfaces are toothed and the toothing thereof are in mesh.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a spring operable to prestress the pressure piece.

Claim 23 (New)

The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the arcuate form of the back side of the rack is convex.